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Preface

The conference “Continued Fractions and Geometric Function Theory”, CONFUN for short and for fun, was held in Trondheim, Norway, June 24–28, 1997. It was a conference in honor of Haakon Waadeland who celebrated his 70th birthday on May 20th that year. The two main topics of the conference reflect Waadeland’s main research areas.

We were happy to see that the conference attracted as many as 71 mathematicians. They were all friends and colleagues from 16 countries. Moreover, quite a number of them had chosen to bring along friends and/or relatives, so we were almost 100 altogether.

There were nine plenary talks. We are grateful to the speakers, Roger Barnard, Bruce Berndt, Annie Cuyt, Peter L. Duren, Mourad Ismail, William B. Jones, Thomas MacGregor, Francisco Marcellan and Walter van Assche who all gave beautiful talks without getting any compensation from the conference. Also Alan Beardon had planned to give one such plenary talk, but his health did not permit him to attend the conference.

The remaining forty-eight 25 min talks had to be given in parallel sessions, which was really a shame, since so many of the talks were of very high quality. Fortunately quite a number of them can be found in this special issue.

We want to thank the Department of Mathematical Sciences, NTNU, the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters, the Nansen Foundation, and the Mayor of Trondheim for their moral and financial support, and all the participants for making this such an interesting conference. Finally, we thank Luc Wuytack, the main editor of this journal, for publishing this special issue.

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